



**Council for Advancement of Adult Literacy
in cooperation with Senator Jack Reed's Office**

**Briefing on Adult Education
for Senate and House Legislative Aides
and Other Invited Guests**

Compelling Evidence of the Need for Strong Investment

**192 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Thursday, May 15, 2014 (as of 5/12/14)**

- 2:00 **Welcome** (Moirá Lenehan, Sr. Policy Advisor to Senator Jack Reed) and **Introduction to the Program – including a brief explanation of the adult education system** (Gail Spangenberg, President, Council for Advancement of Adult Literacy).
- 2:10 **U.S. Competitiveness Gap: Key Findings of the Program for International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) With a Focus on U.S. Workforce Preparedness** (Irwin Kirsch, Director, Center for Global Assessment, Educational Testing Service). ETS designed the OECD household assessment and background questionnaire which were administered in 24 participating OECD member countries.
- 2:25 **What's at Stake If We Don't Invest & Investing in What Works** (James Parker, CAAL Sr. Research/Policy Associate). (1) Key findings of two papers prepared in 2014 for CAAL by the Center for Labor Market Studies of Northeastern University (*Net Annual Fiscal Contributions of U.S. Adults Aged 18-64 by Education Attainment, 2009-2012* and *Labor Market Experiences, Earnings, Income Inadequacy Problems, and Civic Behavior of U.S. Adults by Educational Attainment*). (2) Highlights of two recent CAAL publications on Return on Investment (ROI) in Adult Education.
- 2:35 **Kentucky's Efforts to Transform Adult Education to Meet Current National and State Need.** (Reecie Stagnolia, Vice President, Kentucky Adult Education, Council on Postsecondary Education). Kentucky is one of the leadership states in adult education and workforce development and along with a few other states is in the forefront of national policy development.
- 2:45 **The Employment Prospects of ESL/Immigrant/Refugee Groups and Their Need for Adult Education Services** (Margie McHugh, Director, National Center on Immigrant Integration Policy, Migration Policy Institute).
- 2:55 **Why Adult Education for Low-Skilled Adults Is Essential for Achieving Readiness for College and Jobs, and Why This Matters to our Nation** (Marcie Foster, Senior Policy Analyst, Center for Postsecondary and Economic Success, CLASP)
- 3:05 Q&A
- 3:30 Adjournment

**Outside Guests from Adult Education
and Workforce Skills Funding, Planning, and Service Provision**

Amanda Ahlstrand, Administrator, Office of Workforce Investment Employment and Training.
U.S. Department of Labor

Betsy Brand, Executive Director, American Youth Policy Forum (pending)

Sarita Brown, President, Excelencia in Education

Mary Clagett, Director, Workforce Policy, Jobs for the Future (pending)

Sharon Darling, President, National Center for Family Literacy (pending)

Felicia Gaither, Director, Division of Tribal TANF Management, Office of Family Assistance,
Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Jim Hermes, Associate Vice President, Government Relations, American Association of
Community Colleges

Irene Lee, Director, Family Economic Success, Annie E. Casey Foundation

Mary McCain, Executive Vice President, TechVision21

Jackie Taylor, President (2013-2015), Commission on Adult Basic Education

Tony Sarmiento, Executive Director, Senior Service America, Inc.

Emily Sheketoff, Executive Director, Washington Office, American Library Association

Martin Simon, Director, Economic and Workforce Development Program, National Governors
Association

Eugene Sofer, Partner, Susquehanna Group

Jaleh Soroui, PIAAC Project Manager, American Institutes for Research

Ajita Talwalker, Sr. Policy Advisor, White House Domestic Policy Council (pending)

TBD, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Center for Education and Workforce (pending)

Peter Waite, Executive Vice President, Proliteracy (pending)

Johan Uvin, Acting Assistant Secretary Designate, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult
Education, U.S. Department of Education

RESOURCES

Panelist Contact information:

Gail Spangenberg, CAAL, gspangenberg@caalusa.org
Bess Heitner, Assistant to President, CAAL, bheitner@caalusa.org
James Parker, CAAL, jtparker@atlanticbb.net
Irwin Kirsch, ETS, ikirsch@ets.org
Reecie Stagnolia, Kentucky Adult Education, reecie.stagnolia@ky.gov
Margie McHugh, Migration Policy Institute, mmchugh@migrationpolicy.org
Marcie Foster, Center for Law and Social Policy, mwmfoster@clasp.org

Materials:

A wide range of materials related to the Program for International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) – <http://piaacgateway.com>

Stepping Up to ROI in Adult Education: A Survey of State Activity – <http://www.caalusa.org/SteppingUptoROI.pdf>

Invitation to a Roundtable: A Discussion of Return on Investment in Adult Education – <http://www.caalusa.org/InvitationtoRoundtable.pdf>

Net Annual Fiscal Contributions of U.S. Adults Aged 18-64 by Education Attainment, 2009-2012 – <http://www.caalusa.org/NetFiscalContributions09-12.pdf>

Labor Market Experiences, Earnings, Income Inadequacy Problems, and Civic Behavior of U.S. Adults by Educational Attainment – <http://www.caalusa.org/EdLevelsSocialOutcomes.pdf>

A Profile of Adult Education in Kentucky Showing Significant Return on Investment – <http://www.kyae.ky.gov/NR/rdonlyres/743D9794-89AC-4EB1-9D96-12076665385B/0/KYAEProfile.pdf>

In Graduating to College: Three States Helping Adult Education Students Get a College Education, a Working Poor Families Project Policy Brief, Kentucky is featured as a leadership state in goal-setting, holding providers accountable, and sophistication in measuring outcomes. <http://www.workingpoorfamilies.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/policybrief-summer2012.pdf>

Kentucky is featured in *State Capacity for Leadership*, a short publication by the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems on implementing new assessments aligned with the common core standards so as to measure college readiness. http://www.nchems.org/pubs/docs/NCHEMS-State_Capacity_For_Leadership-12042011-FINAL.pdf

Taking Limited English Proficient Adults into Account in the Federal Adult Education Funding Formula, Migration Policy Institute – <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/taking-limited-english-proficient-adults-account-federal-adult-education-funding-formula>

Building the Middle Class with Better Skills and Wages: Who Would be Helped by Stronger Pathways? — <http://www.clasp.org/issues/postsecondary/pages/building-the-middle-class-with-better-skills-and-wages-who-would-be-helped-by-stronger-pathways>

Not Just Kid Stuff Anymore: The Economic Imperative for More Adults to Complete College – <http://www.clasp.org/resources-and-publications/publication-1/NotKidStuffAnymoreAdultStudentProfile-1.pdf>